

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-11 and 21-26 are all the claims pending in the application. By this amendment, Applicant is amending claims 1 and 21 and adding claims 25 and 26.

In view of the Advisory Action mailed June 21, 2007, indicating that the prior art rejections are not overcome, Applicants further amend the pending claims and submit the following remarks in an effort to expedite prosecution of the pending application.

Independent claim 1 is hereby amended to clarify the feature “a caulked portion provided to the cylindrical member partly at an intersection”. This feature is not disclosed in Dent. See Figs. 4 and 8 of Dent. Moreover, additional limitations such as a torque detection coil are not taught or suggested by Dent.

Moreover, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify Dent based on the disclosures of the remaining cited references in order to arrive at claim 1.

Independent claim 21 is hereby amended to clarify the feature “the cylindrical member is spaced apart from the shaft member by a clearance except at the position corresponding to the at least one axial groove”. This feature is not disclosed in Dent. See Figs. 4 and 8. Moreover, additional limitations such as a torque detection coil are not disclosed by Dent.

Still further, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to modify Dent based on the disclosures of the remaining cited references in order to arrive at claim 21.

The above amendments to claims 1 and 21 are fully supported by the originally filed specification and drawings. For example, see paragraphs [0040], [0041], [0051], [0053], [0055], and FIGS. 2, 3, 5, 10 and 11 of the originally filed specification.

Additionally, Applicants add claims 25 and 26 to further define the invention. These claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from claims 1 and 21. Moreover, these claims are patentable by virtue of their own limitations contained therein.

For example, Dent fails to disclose that the caulked portion is provided only at the intersection of the axial and circumferential grooves as in claim 25. Instead, the caulked portion in Dent is continuous and provided at non-intersection points. Also, Dent fails to disclose a clearance between caulked portions as recited in claim 26.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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